

March 1, 1983

January 26 in a special ceremony the Trailblazer Award was presented to state Senator Richard Marvel of Hastings, an event which I am sure most of you attended. In the pioneer days the wagonmaster was comparable to the captain of the ship, steering the course and making all the major decisions, constantly keeping in mind the welfare of the people of his wagon train. People who know our first honoree are very much aware of his concern for others, his deep feeling for those who need help and his leadership. His professional, civic and volunteer activities include: Assistant Attorney General, Assistant U.S. District Attorney, State President of the Jaycees, winner of Outstanding State President of the National Jaycee Convention, Administrative Assistant to U.S. Senator Roman Hruska, U.S. House of Representatives. In government as well as in private life he has exemplified dedication to people and the state. His interest in the veterans organizations, agriculture, human rights are evidence of his unselfish dedication to provide leadership toward quality of life. We are especially grateful for his personal efforts to reactivate and reorganize the Nebraskaland Foundation. The pioneers crossing Nebraska had standards of leadership and they were set by the wagonmasters a century ago. The times have changed but not the basic values and precepts of that leadership. May we present our recipient of the Nebraskaland Foundation's Wagonmaster Award, the Honorable Charlie Thone, past Governor of the State of Nebraska.

CHARLES THONE: Acting Governor McGinley...(applause.) Thank you, Betty Abbott. My, oh, my, as my Mom would say, that's an awful lot of gravy for such a small potato. I wish Marge Higgins would have been here to hear all of that. We were kidding out there a little. Really I'm not all that bad a fellow, Marge. Let me very, very briefly salute the Nebraskaland Foundation. As you know, it was kind of a dream of former Governor Frank Morrison. He really got it off the ground and did a superlative job with it. It was then revitalized by Don Kinsbury of Ponca and had a real thrust from our fine Secretary of State Allen Beermann and now Betty Abbott is carrying forth. In this era when only too many people seem to run the government for every little ill, ache and pain it was good to see this private sector organization during my four years as Governor do a real fine job of placing forth the best foot of this great and beautiful state of ours. Thank you, Betty Abbott, and thanks to all of you.

BETTY ABBOTT: Thank you. The Trailblazer Award is given annually by the Nebraskaland Foundation to those outstanding citizens of our state who through unselfish special efforts have forged a new path of benefit to Nebraska's quality of life. As you read through the extensive biography of our honoree you find it laced with words such as, "the first,"